

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 13, 21, 28, 33, 38, 40, 44, 57, 63, 67 and 70 have been amended. Claims 9, 10, 11, 12, 68 and 69 have been canceled. Claims 1-8, 13-67 and 70-75 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the time spent on the phone discussing U.S. Patent No. 6,714,216 to Abe, over which all of the claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). In view of the discussion with the Examiner, Applicant has amended its claims, as indicated above, to clarify its subject matter over Abe.

Applicant is making these amendments to advance prosecution and expressly reserves its right to further file continuation applications to pursue subject matter that Applicant believes it is due in view of the cited art.

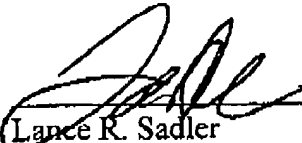
As indicated in the interview, the Examiner noted that these amendments would distinguish Abe, but that the Examiner would need to do an updated search.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance. In the event the next action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

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